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WOOD CHEMICAL PLANTS BRAT PLAN

The chemical factories of the lumber industry under the Ministry of Forestry have completed the Three-Year Plan ahead of schedule. Charcoal production was 147 percent of plan, pitch 188 percent, calcium acetate 127 percent, methanol 120 percent, solvents 117 percent, turpentine 190 percent, colophony 130 percent, and various other by-products 349 percent. Production of activated charcoal was only 61 percent of plan because of small demand for this product. At present, it is produced only to order.

In 1945-46, the state forest administration took over the Hajnowka and Wosowska factories which dry-distill the wood, and the turpentine factory at Hajnowka. Other factories taken over were two resin distilleries, one in Zagorze and the other in Garbatka, and one extracting factory in Ptusza. The extracting factory at Szczebrzeszyn was taken over in 1949.

Because of the favorable development of production, it was possible to abolish controls on many raw materials. Up to 1947, turpentine was under allocation. In 1948, turpentine was exported for the first time. In 1949, the export of turpentine was 60 percent greater than in 1948.

The next in importance is the production of colophony, which was imported by Poland prior to the war. At present, it is still a controlled commodity. However, the 1949 production is such that none will have to be imported. (a other products of dry distillation of wood, such as charcoal, and pitch, the demand is not great and the export is relatively small. Under the Six-Year Plan, charcoal consumption will increase, particularly in metallurgy. This will, however, depend upon the construction of a special type of blast furnace for smelting raw iron, now imported from Sweden. The quality of certain types of steel will be improved with the use of charcoal.

The production of calcium acetate, necessary for the manufacture of acetome and acetic acid, will not be expanded since this raw material can be more economically produced synthetically. The same is true of methanol, used in the production of Formalin. At present it is possible to obtain 98.8 percent pure methanol, leaving a very low residue after the extraction of Formalin.

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Under the Six-Year Plan, existing factories will be modernized. Their capacity will be expanded so that the entire supply of resin obtained during the season can be processed and will not have to be stored. Since the factories will be engaged in this production only through the seven summer months, additional products will be manufactured to maintain full-time operations. One plant will produce volatile oils from needles of coniferous trees, another will produce taning extracts from spruce bark obtained only during the winter, etc. With this synchronization of production, employment will be provided throughout the entire year.

The production of volatile oils will be handled in two stages. In the first stage the primary raw material will undergo preliminary processing in a mobile factory-on-wheels at the wood-cutting site. The second stage of production will be at the permanent factory.

It is also plenned to build three new factories to produce turpentine and colophony from pine stumps.

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